



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

N.T. Wing / EAC Branch Nautical - Circular No. 29 of 2025

File No.: 25-104/6/2021-NT - DGS		Date: 12.07.2025
Authorized by: - Chief Examiner of Master & Mates.	Subject – Commencement of Nautical Grade Examinations at MMD Visakhapatnam – reg.	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Chief Examiner of Master & Mates, through the examination centres at various Mercantile Marine Departments (MMDs), is entrusted with the responsibility of conduct of Nautical Grade competency examinations for seafarers in accordance with the applicable provisions of National and International Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW Convention).2. At present, Nautical grade competency examinations are conducted at six MMD examination centres located at Mumbai, Noida, Kolkata, Chennai, Cochin, and Kandla.3. This Directorate has, in recent times, received representations from seafarers and stakeholders, particularly those residing along the eastern coastal region and adjacent states, requesting the establishment of examination facilities closer to their place of residence. A review of the existing infrastructure indicates the need for augmenting examination capacity to meet the growing demand—especially in view of the Maritime India Vision 2030, which envisages increasing the share of Indian seafarers to 20% of the global seafaring workforce.4. MMD Visakhapatnam has upgraded its infrastructure and is now equipped to accommodate 75 candidates for written examinations, making it a viable centre to meet regional demand.5. In line with the Directorate's commitment to improving accessibility, efficiency, and candidate satisfaction, it is considered appropriate to extend the conduct of Nautical grade examinations to MMD Visakhapatnam.6. Accordingly, the following decisions have been taken with the approval of the Competent Authority:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) MMD Visakhapatnam shall commence the conduct of Nautical Grade Examinations with immediate effect.		

b) The examination and certification activities shall be conducted at the following address:

**MMD Visakhapatnam,
Harbour Park, Down Road, Beside Ramakrishna Ashrama, Pandurangapuram,
Visakhapatnam – 530002.**

c.) MMD Chennai shall extend necessary administrative and operational support to MMD Visakhapatnam to ensure the seamless commencement and conduct of the examinations.

7. This initiative is expected to significantly reduce the travel burden & related costs for candidates from the eastern region, ensure optimal utilization of the already established facility at MMD Visakhapatnam, and is in line with the Directorate's commitment to decentralisation, accessibility, and improved service delivery for the maritime fraternity.
8. Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 9(a) of the Merchant Shipping (STCW) Rules, 2014, the Directorate hereby notifies MMD Visakhapatnam as one of the designated centres for conducting Nautical Grade Examinations. The activities of Examination, Assessment and Certification shall commence from 01st August 2025 for the Nautical grade written examination scheduled for September 2025 and thereafter.

This order is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.



12.07.25

(Capt. Ravi Singh Sikarwar)
Nautical Surveyor-cum-DDG(Tech.)

To

1. The Principal Officers, Mercantile Marine Department, Mumbai / Kolkata / Chennai / Kandla / Kochi.
2. The Surveyor – in – Charge, Mercantile Marine Department Nodia.
3. E-governance cell to include MMD Visakhapatnam in the list of exam centers.
4. Computer cell.

Copy to:

5. The Chief Surveyor with Govt of India.
6. Nautical Advisor to the Govt. of India.